



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Personnel Accounting Progress in China as of October 22, 2004

Cold War Statistics

Recovered Alive	Remains Recovered	Remains Identified	Remaining Unaccounted for
9	4	4	20

- 18 Jan 53 – Chinese ground fire damaged a U.S. Navy P2V causing it to ditch in the Formosa Straits. Initially, a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) PBM-5G aircraft rescued eleven crewmembers; however, it crashed on take-off in heavy seas. The USS Halsey Powell rescued seven crewmembers. Six Navy P2V crewmembers and five USCG PBM-5G crewmembers remain unaccounted for.
- 22 Aug 56 – Chinese fighter aircraft shot down U.S. Navy P4M off the coast of Wenchow. U.S. ships recovered the remains of two crewmembers. The Chinese recovered and repatriated the remains of two crewmembers. Twelve crewmembers remain unaccounted for.

Key Events in 2004

- Conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Korean War F-86 crash site near Dandong and recovered possible human remains, personal effects and aircraft wreckage (May – June , 04).
- Conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province and recovered possible human remains and aircraft wreckage. (June 04)
- Conducted remains recovery operation at WWII C-46 aircraft crash site in Tibet. Recovered personal effects and wreckage, but no human remains (August-Sept 04).
- Continue to pursue archival research initiatives to obtain new information to support personnel accounting efforts.
- U.S. - China Technical Talks scheduled for November 2004 to reach agreement on recovery operations for FY 2005.

Chronology

- 1996 – PRC President Jiang Zemin initiates discussion on POW/MIA cooperation with President Clinton at APEC Summit in Manila
- 1999-2000 – DASD meets with MFA counterpart, Chen Mingming, who indicated a willingness to investigate clear and specific information on Korean War cases, but noted that Korean War archives belong to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and remain classified. Eight months later,

over 40 additional Korean War cases were presented to the Chinese for investigation. The MFA's Mr. Chen agreed to launch an oral history program (OHP) allowing DPMO interviews with Chinese Korean War veterans involved in POW camp operations. OHP began in Beijing with the interview of four Chinese veterans. Later, six US Korean War veterans met with Chinese veterans in Beijing. This initiative was put on hold to establish US-PRC academic exchanges focused on the Korean War and to pursue avenues for open source archival research.

- Jul 2000 – SECDEF Cohen's visit to Beijing highlighted importance of increased cooperation on Korean War accounting.
- March 2002 – During President Bush's visit to China, Assistant Secretary of State Kelly mentioned the Cold War C-47 case to North American Affairs Deputy Director General Zheng Zeguang. Zheng was immediately aware of the case and acknowledged our interest.
- May 2002 – A DPMO and CILHI team met with the Chinese MFA in Beijing to negotiate support agreements for two WWII-era crash site recoveries in Tibet and to discuss POW/MIA issues. The MFA agreed to support the Tibet site survey/recovery requirements and a survey of the Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province, China. In July 2002, a CILHI team and a DPMO analyst surveyed the C-47 crash and found possible aircraft wreckage at a location described by a witness. In August-September 2002, a CILHI team recovered what are believed to be the remains of a C-46 crew from a WWII crash site in Tibet. The remains were repatriated to the U.S. CILHI conducted an investigation at a second Tibet WWII C-46 crash site. Three crewmembers are unaccounted for from this aircraft loss. A recovery operation was planned in 2003.
- 2000-2003 – Observations of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War provided the PRC with excellent opportunities to advance cooperation on this issue. This became a critical juncture in our effort to move forward on Korean War accounting and increased cooperation with China in this effort.
- March 2003 – DASD Jennings visited China to meet with representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the People's Liberation Army, and the Red Cross Society of China to enhance cooperation on personnel accounting initiatives.
- The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) pandemic prevented DPMO and CILHI teams from traveling to Beijing from April through July 2003. The SARS travel ban was lifted in July.
- October 2003 -- DPMO and personnel from the new Joint Personnel Accounting Command (JPAC) participated in technical talks with their Chinese counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing October 13th, to plan 2004 activities. Both sides agreed to conduct two recovery operations, a site survey, and pursue archival research initiatives.
- February 2004 -- Technical experts from DPMO and JPAC met with Chinese representatives in Beijing to discuss operational and logistics requirements for the survey and recovery operations in 2004.
- May 10 – June 4, 2004, JPAC conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Korean War F-86 crash site near Dandong and recovered possible human remains and aircraft wreckage.
- June 9 – 29, 2004, JPAC conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province and recovered possible human remains and aircraft wreckage.
- August – September 2004, JPAC conducted investigation and recovery operation at WWII C-46 aircraft crash site in Tibet. Recovered personal effects and wreckage, but no human remains.

DPMO 2004 Goals

- DASD Jennings' March 2003 visit set the stage for enhanced cooperation on a myriad of personnel accounting initiatives in for 2004 China. Mr. Jennings met with senior Chinese officials to emphasize our personnel accounting objectives, increase DPMO presence in China and encourage Chinese researchers to conduct archival research in PLA operational records from the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War. Agreed upon initiatives included:
 - Holding regular meetings at the provincial level to investigate new cases;
 - Resuming the oral history program to interview Chinese Korean War veterans;
 - Investigating a Korean War F-86 crash site near Dandong, China;
 - Conducting analyst exchanges to identify WWII and Korean War aircraft crash sites; and
 - Conducting a Korean War vets-to-vets exchange in Washington, D.C.

Chinese Position on POW/MIA cooperation

- The Chinese understand the importance of the issue to the American public
- Cooperation on WWII, Cold War and Vietnam-era cases is cordial and, as information becomes available, productive. Until very recently, Korean War cooperation has been problematic, as the Chinese officially state that all Korean War cases involving China were resolved at the cessation of active hostilities
- The Chinese view this as a bilateral humanitarian issue within the purview of the MFA, not the PLA.

USG Position

- Chinese cooperation on Korean War cases remains our greatest challenge.
- The PLA archives conceivably contain and Chinese veterans probably possess a wealth of information on Americans who are unaccounted for from the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- Emphasis will remain on working with the MFA to find acceptable avenues to engage the PLA and gain access to or information from these archival materials and witnesses.
- The MFA's favorable response on the Korean War cases presented in the past two years is critical for advancing efforts in POW/MIA cooperation and important to overall improvement in the bilateral relationship

